SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: We have taken a number of steps during the last few weeks regarding publicising our view-point and giving true facts to people abroad. We have sent a large number of video tapes to foreign countries and they have been used by a large number of ethnic TV networks. We have distributed them to associations of Indians who are interested in this. A lot has been done to project our view and give true facts to our people abroad, particularly of Indian origin.

Production loss at Burnpur (IISCO)

*264. SHRI KALYAN ROY:†

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the blast furnaces of the IISCO at Burnpur were shut down causing serious production losses to the Company;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what were the consequences of the shut down and the extent of damages thus suffered;

(d) whether any investigation has been conducted by an independent team of experts in this regard; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) There was a total power failure from the DVC for the IISCO steel plant on May 13, 1984. Both the Kaliphari and Hirapur feeders to IISCO tripped at 1314 hours through non-directional earth fault relay as a result of which the total plant load came on the captive unit and the voltage came down to 5 K.V. A large number of boiler auxiliaries tripped leading to law steam pressure and steam turbine driven pumps could not supply cooling water to the blast furnaces. As a result, the cooling tuyeres of the two blast furnaces got burnt. When the water supply was resumed, water entered into the blast furnaces resulting in their chilling and damage to equipment resulting in closure of two blast furnaces for repair. The loss of production during this period of repairs was hot metal-53,950 tonnes, ingot steel-30855 tonnes and saleable steel-32,580 tonnes. The replacement cost of the burnt equipment is estimated to be about Rs. 14 lakhs.'

(d) Yes, Sir. A team of three experts, two of which including the leader of the team were not from IISCO have investigated the mishap.

(e) Does not arise.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I think the Minister will agree with me that this kind of mishap—total collapse of the blast furnace—has never happened in the past. You will correct me if I am wrong. I do not think it has ever happened in any of the steel plants, either in the public sector or in the private sector so far. The only big mishap we are aware of is the roof collapse in Rourkela Steel plant when late Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam was the Minister of Steel and Mines. He immediately set up an independent enquiry, ater suspending the officers who were in charge.

Now, according to this paper which has been laid, the Minister has given three reasons, namely, power failure from DVC; tripping of the boilers; and sudden on-rush of water. These are I think, the three points he has

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kalyan Roy.

mentioned in this. But there are hundreds of senior technicians and officers. What were they doing when so many failures took place in the course of three days, one after the other? There is no power and there is tripping of the boiler auxiliaries and when the water supply is resumed, water is entering the blast furnaces. Why are we having a maintenance department? That is my first question. It is not that there was only power failure or there was tripping. But there is something more. And, Sir, the Minister has stated that he has set up an inquiry team, a team of three experts, two of whom including the leader of the team were not from the IISCO. May I ask whether any action has been taken by anyone for this collapse of the blast furnaces? That is one thing. Then, Sir, has any one been suspended so far? That is the second thing. Thirdly, Sir, what is the report of the team?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir the honourable Member, who is otherwise very knowledgeable about the affairs of this plant, has tripped for once. The Committee, which was appointed to inquire into this, has pointed out that earlier similar situations had arisen on February 27, 1979 and on March 14, 1983, due to the isolation of the DVC grid. This is within his lifetime, Sir, and I am sure he would have also know about this.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: In your lifetime also.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Yes. Sir, the honourable Member is right when he says that such a major break-down has taken place and the matter must be properly looked into. We appointed a Committee which Committee, Sir, was fairly independent and it comprised Mr. S. K. Roy, Additional Director of Operations, SAIL, Mr. Andley, Member who and Mr. Trikha had nothing to do with IISCO. We wanted to bring about objectivity and impartiality. Now, what is there in the report and what is the finding? That is his first question. Sir, there is unfortunately no device which we have installed which would temporarily isolate the non-essential load. The load suddenly fell and, at that time, two of our generators, captive generators, were unfortunately under repair and the entire load of the DVC tripped and if, at that time, there was this device erected by us, it could temporarily isolate the non-essential load and may be this calamity could have been avoided. This is the first finding which has been given by the Committee. The second thing is that no individual responsibility on any power personnel could be fixed and, Sir, the third finding is that this is not the first time that the DVC tripped and that the measures recommended in the earlier times require a review. But I want to assure the honourable Members that when this report came to my notice, I was not fully satisfied and I am not fully satisfied and I want a deeper probe into it and I want to assure this House through you, Sir, that we will take every possible measure to ensure that such a break-down does not recur in the plant.

AN HON. MEMBER: Very good.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Sir, I thank the Minister because he has said that he is not satisfied and he will go further deep into the matter and probe into it. I am very happy about it. Now, Sir, in the background of this, may I ask him one more question? He was told about the various failures on the part of the management and the inquiry team was set up under Mr. Samarapungavan—I am not able to pronounce his name and I plead guilty—alongwith some others and they submitted a report and that report is still pending, pending for a pretty long time. How long will the Government take to study these reports on the various factors responsible for the ills of the IISCO and come out with its own measures so that the

IISCO, which is losing about Rs. 71 crores according to him and about Rs. 69 crores according to Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, could ultimately stand on its own?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, this is a large question, entirely unrelated to this question about the break-down. But I want to submit to the honourable Member that we have already finalised our detailed report on modernisation, revamping, upgradation of technology and getting rid of the obsolete plant and equipment and we are sending that very shortly to PEB and I have also indicated partly what we are doing to restructure the entire finances because in the field of steel, Sir, it is a very highly capital-intensive industry and the basic malaise of the IISCO is to be removed, that is, undercapitalisation. We are going to increase the equity and there is a proposal pending before the Government and we hope we would be able to restructure the whole thing and, to that extent, Sir, he is right because, otherwise, we will not be able to make it economically viable.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: Sir, the replacement cost of the burnt out equipment is estimated to be Rs. 14 lakhs. Who has made this estimate—the expert committee or some other boy. Secondly, what steps have so far been taken for replacement?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: As to replacement, Sir, we did not wait for replacement; we straightway carried out the replacement because without that the plant would have stopped working. As to the estimate, this is the job of the plant to do it. They have given this estimate.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next question. Shrimati Kanak Mukherjee . . . Not here. Mr. Advani.

Loss of property on account of extremists' activities in Punjab

*265. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:†

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the extent and nature of loss of property as a result of the extremists' activities in Punjab since 1981?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): Since the question presumably covers both private and public property, figures are being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

We need a little time, Sir. Other Ministries have to be approached and a lot of departments within the Government of Punjab have to be asked. It will take some time before we are able to collect all this.

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी : उपसभापति जी, जहां तक 1981 से लेकर अब तक सम्पत्ति की क्षति हुई है उसके बारे में आंकडे इकट्ठे करने में सरकार को निश्चित रूप से समय लगेगा, मैं मान सकता हूं । मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि 5 और 6 जून को जब सैनिक कार्यवाही हुई थी और उस समय आस पास के मकानों को काफी क्षति पहुंची तो क्या उसका अनुमान किया गया है, उसकी जानकारी सदन को दे सकते है ?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I think this is covered by Question No. 270 which is stated today for a little later.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: It may not come. (*Interruptions*).

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी : जवाब दीजिए ।

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Lal K. Advani.